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Task Force on the Rules of Procedure for the  
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## SUPREME COURT OF ARIZONA

PETITION TO AMEND THE	) Supreme Court No. R-20-0044
ARIZONA RULES OF PROCEDURE	)
FOR THE JUVENILE COURT	) Second Motion to Permit
	) Additional Time for Filing a
	) Rule Petition
	)
	) Expedited Consideration
_____	) Requested

On behalf of the Task Force on the Arizona Rules of Procedure for the Juvenile Court, the undersigned Chair asks the Court to extend the time for filing a rule petition. Administrative Order No. 2019-74, which established the Task Force, set a “goal of submitting a rule petition by January 10, 2021.”

This is the Task Force’s second motion to extend the filing date for the rule petition. The Task Force filed its first motion to extend on December 3, 2020, noting that the Task Force and workgroups had already held more than a hundred meetings, and that more meetings were pending. The motion observed that notwithstanding

the members' diligence, the project was taking longer than expected because of the number (currently 124 draft rules), difficulty, and scope of the rules. The Court granted the motion and extended the deadline for filing the petition to March 31, 2021.

Workgroups, including the Editorial Group, met 8 times during January, and the Task Force convened for a 5-hour meeting on February 5, 2021. Staff thereafter prepared a 240-page second draft of the proposed rules, which was posted on the Task Force webpage on February 17, 2021. A.O. No. 2019-74 directed the Task Force to obtain input from stakeholders before filing the rule petition. On the same day the rules were posted, staff provided stakeholders with a link to the rules and requested that stakeholders provide comments before the March 5, 2021 Task Force meeting.

The number of commenters (19 comments) and the breadth of those comments exceeded the members' expectations. Comments came from Task Force members, judicial officers, practitioners, agencies, and both divisions of the Court of Appeals. Most comments were multi-faceted, concerned multiple rules, or raised complex legal issues.

When the Task Force met again on March 5, 2021, members discussed as many comments as they could during their full-day meeting. Members decided that some comments raised issues that should first be addressed by Task Force

workgroups. Each workgroup scheduled a meeting in March, and the members' discussions of the draft rules are ongoing. In short, the work of the Task Force will continue beyond the current March 31 filing deadline.

**Conclusion.** Undersigned Chair therefore requests the Court to extend the time for filing a rule petition for one additional month, until April 30, 2021. This will allow the Task Force the time to do the work necessary to improve the rules before submitting them to the Court and opening them for public comment.

The Task Force further requests the Court's consideration of the petition at the December 2021 Rules Agenda. The Task Force petition will propose a July 1, 2022 effective date for the proposed rules, which will allow 6 months for educating judicial officers, clerks, attorneys, and others on the large number of new and modified provisions.

Undersigned accordingly suggests that the public comment period for this petition remain open until July 23, 2021, and that the Task Force be permitted to file its reply to the comments by September 30, 2021.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED this 18<sup>th</sup> day of March 2021.

By /s/ Justice Rebecca White Berch  
Justice Rebecca White Berch (ret.), Chair